speakers; and in reply to them, I have stated what the Government's view of the matter is. I have merely to assure you in addition that the Government is not unaware of the desire that has been generally expressed by everybody that the curriculum of studies in the lower classes must be changed and that the system of education itself must be revised. Government are considering the matter and your suggestions will be given due weight.

76. Municipal Administration.

MR. K. MANI JACOB (*Municipal Council, Kottayam*) Speaking in Malayalam, made the following suggestions for the better working of the Municipalities in the State:—

(1) Section 11 (*c*) of the Municipal Regulation should be so amended as to remove sex disqualification for membership in the council. Women were now eligible to be members of the Legislative Council and the S. M. P. Assembly. To begain with, at least two lady members should be nominated by the Government to each of the major Municipalities.

(2) The present practice of making non-members of the Council also eligible for the Presidentship should be changed and only Councillors should be made eligible for the place. This would be an inducement to the more efficient and capable men to seek election to the Councils.

(3) A member should not be allowed to continue in office for more than three years. Section 13 (3) of the Regulation was being largely misused now.

(4) The Government should conduct an enquiry regarding the delay in publishing the name of the member elected for the second ward of the Kottayam Municipality and should issue a Proceedings regarding the same. The election was conducted in 1103 and the name was duly reported to the Government for publication in the Gazette. But neither the name had been published in the Gazette till now, nor the election had been declared invalid.

(5) The election of members and the publication of their names in the Gazette took some time. Hence the Government should instruct the Municipalities to conduct the election two months before the expiry of their term, so as to enable the names of the newly elected members, being published in the Gazette, in the same month in which heir term expired.

(6) The proceedings of the meetings of the Councils were published in the Gazette to enable the public to know what took place in the meetings of the Councils. But this object was now being defeated by the Presidents publishing only mere abstracts of the proceedings and that long after the date of the meetings. Hence it should be arranged that the complete proceedings of the meetings of the Councils should be published in the Gazette within a week, and that copies of it should be furnished to all the Council members. If there was any additional expenditure on this account to the Government, the same should be charged to the respective Municipalities.

(7) The Government did not find time to examine the resolutions of the Municipal Councils under Section 248. A proper officer should be appointed for this purpose, and if that was not possible, at least the respective Division Peishkars should be authorised to do so.

(8) Most of the Municipalities in the State had introduced taxes under sub-section (1) to (6) of Section 62 of the Regulation. But none of them had framed the bye-laws required by Section 61 (*c*). The tax payers were thereby subjected to much hardship. Before Government sanction for the introduction of taxes was accorded, under Section 61 (*b*) the Government should enquire whether the bye-laws relating to the taxes had been framed and if not, the Municipality concerned should be asked to frame the bye-laws within a specified period, failing which the above taxes should be abolished.

(9) The practice of misusing municipal funds, without conforming to the rules, should be checked. If there were rules under Section 254 (*j*), the Kottayam Municipality could have avoided the loss of a substantial amount.

(10) As the Presidents of the Municipal Councils were non-officials and as they had many other duties to attend to, they were not able to attend the municipal offices regularly and to pay proper attention to the regular disposal of office work. A responsible officer was required to receive petitions, issue receipts, control finances, conduct municipal affairs as per the bye-laws and rules, and to exercise proper supervision over the municipal staff. An executive officer should be appointed in each of the major Municipalities for the above purpose. Rules should also be framed specifying the duties of those officers, to avoid difference of opinion between them and the Presidents of the Councils.

(11) Provident fund should be introduced, instead of pension, for the municipal employees, so as to safeguard the interest of the children of these men, who were liable to premature death on account of their dealings with people suffering from infectious diseases. The Government should also have facility to transfer employees getting above Rs. 25 per mensem.

(12) Most of the Municipalities were found keen on utilising the municipal funds for carrying out discretionary functions, while there were many obligatory functions to be done. The construction of public latrines and urinals, the proper sanitation of the towns and other essential functions were not cared for, while they were more anxious for the award of grants to Ayurvedic Physicians, etc. The Government should insist on each Municipality providing within Municipal limits privies, urinals, slaughter houses and small-pox isolation sheds, every year, as required by the Sanitary Commissioner, on the basis of the population of each Municipality.

(13) The petitions in respect of municipal prosecution cases should be exempted from payment of court fees.

(14) Early steps should be taken against the Presidents and Councillors about whom complaints of serious irregularities had been received, under G. O. R. O. C. No. 496 dated the 9th May 1924. No action had been taken so far regarding the irregularities in the Municipalities of Alwaye, Attingal, Kuzhithura and Kottayam. The Rules did not provide for the passing of censure motions against the Presidents and for compelling the Presidents to resign on the passing of such motions.

(15) As there were no rules for asking interpellations and eliciting information and for discussing resolutions in the Municipal Councils, and as the existing rules were abused by some of the Presidents, it was not possible to remedy the above mentioned defects through the Council itself. Municipal Conferences were held at Quilon and Nagercoil, but nothing good resulted from it. There were very few Municipalities with bye-laws relating to meetings. And those Municipalities which had bye-laws did not observe them properly. Hence a Commission should be appointed to enquire into and report whether the administration of the Municipalities was satisfactory and whether they were properly exercising the powers vested in them by the Regulation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയുടെ ഭരണത്തിനു ആവശ്യമുള്ളതായ ചട്ടങ്ങളും ബൈലാസ്സും (bye-laws) ശരിയായിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ് നിങ്ങളുടെ മുഖ്യമായ സങ്കടം എന്നു കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്കു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളതായ റഗുലേഷനെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്താനായി നിയമസഭയിൽ ഒരു ബിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ബിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കി വരികയാണു്. ആ ബിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിനു മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നും, മുനിസിപ്പൽ കൌൺസിലർമാരിൽനിന്നും ചില അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും വരുന്നുണ്ട്. അവയെക്കൂടി ആലോചിച്ചാണ് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഭേദഗതിബിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതിൽ നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതായ അഭിപ്രായംകൂടി അഡിഷനൽ ചീഫ് സക്കാർവക്കീലിനു അയച്ചു് ആലോചിക്കാൻ പറയാം.

മുനിസിപ്പൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെമേൽ പരാതികൾ ഉണ്ടായാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അധികാരം ഉപയോഗിച്ചു് വേണ്ട നടപടി നടത്തണമെന്നാണു് നിങ്ങൾ അടുത്തതായി പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഇപ്പോഴും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ആ ജോലി നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു് വരുന്നുണ്ട്.

തക്കതായ കാരണങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ കൌൺസിലിൽ പാസ്സാക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ (സെക്ഷൻ 42 അനുസരിച്ചു) ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രവേശിക്കയും വേണ്ട നടപടിനടത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്.

മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിലെ മെമ്പർമാരേയോ പ്രസിഡൻറിനേയോ മാറേണ്ടതായ കാരണങ്ങൾ വന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട ഏ

ൻകയറി (enquiry) നടത്തി അതനുസരിച്ചുള്ള മേൽ നടപടി ഗവണ്മെ ൻറു നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൻ ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായ ഒരധികാരം ആവശ്യ മുണ്ടെന്നു നിങ്ങാം പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ആ ഭാഗവും ലാമെമ്പാക്കയച്ചു ഇപ്പോാം കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ബില്ലിൽ ചേക്കാൻ സാധിക്കു മോ എന്നു ചോദിക്കാം.

പിന്നെ ഒന്നു നിങ്ങാം പറഞ്ഞതു് മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികാം മിക്ക സമയത്തും ജനങ്ങാക്കുപയോഗമായ വഴികളിൽ മാത്രമല്ല പണം ചില വാക്കുന്നതു്, നേരെ മറിച്ചു്, അനാവശ്യമായ വഴികളിൽക്കൂടി പണംചി ലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്; ഉപയോഗമായ വഴികളിൽ പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ അ വർ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല, എന്നാണു്. ഈ ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹരിക്കേണ്ടതു് അതാതു മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായിവരുന്നവരുടേയും അ വരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തയക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെയും മുമതലയാണു. അവരു ടെ അനുവാദം ഇല്ലാതെ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിക്കു പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ അ ധികാരമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈ വക സംഗതികാം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ അ റിവിൽ പെടുന്നപക്ഷം അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട നടപടിനടത്താം.

ശേഷം നിങ്ങാം പറഞ്ഞ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയെല്ലാം ആലോചി ക്കാം.

[The draft of a Bill to amend the existing Municipal Regulation is under preparation and your suggestions will also be sent to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil for consideration. Action is even now taken by Government where necessary under Section 248 of the Regulation. The amendments in the law relating to the removal of Presidents and Councillors proposed by you will also be referred to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil. You said that Municipal funds were being wasted or misapplied. It is the duty of the members and the ratepayers to prevent such irregularities ; and if such instances come to the notice of Government, action will be taken. The other points of your representation will be considered.]

77. Needs of the Tovala taluk.

MR. KANAKKU ARUMUGAPERUMAL PILLAI MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Tovala taluk*) said that agriculture was the mainstay of life to the people in Travancore and more so in Nanjinad. Hence it was the duty of the Government to find out means for the improvement of the condition of the agriculturists of the country. Speaking particularly of Nanjinad, the after-effects of the promulgation of the Nanjinad Vellala Regulation were distressing. Added to this, the present economic depression, the fall in the price of produce and the scarcity of money in the land had made the condition of the agriculturists